

AA-788

1911; c. 1940

POWER PLANT

U.S. COAST GUARD YARD

CURTIS BAY

Public (Restricted)

Building No. 15, Power Plant, was constructed in 1911 as part of the U.S. Coast Guard Yard at Curtis Bay. It was substantially rebuilt during a program of Yard modernization and renovation prior to World War II. It is a one-story, gable roofed, steel framed structure with walls and roof clad in corrugated steel sheets.

No. 15 is architecturally significant as part of a group of 5 metal frame, corrugated-steel clad industrial buildings on the Yard, which reflects influences in international industrial building styles of the turn of the century, as embodied in designs by German architect Peter Behrens (1868-1940) for his Turbine Factory (1909) and other factory buildings in Berlin, and those of American architect Alfred Kahn (1869-1942). Among the prolific works of the latter designer, buildings designed for the budding automobile industry in America seem to have had the most impact on Yard building, where design features of early Kahn buildings (most notably the Ford Motor Works buildings in Detroit erected in 1913) can be detected in the design of open floor spaces unfettered by columnar support (made possible by trussed roofs); extension of interior work spaces through the addition of lofts, and high percentage of facade space dedicated to industrial windows set into steel sash. The worker and production-oriented spirit of these constructions were refined and examples of them built all over the world through their dissemination by the German Bauhaus movement of the 1920's.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Building No. 15, Power Plant

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

U.S. Coast Guard Yard

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Curtis Bay

VICINITY OF

Maryland 21226

COUNTY Anne Arundel

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

U.S. Coast Guard

Telephone #: 789-1600

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Curtis Bay

VICINITY OF

Maryland STATE, zip code  
21226**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Anne Arundel County Courthouse

Liber #: GW 47

Folio #: 224

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis, Maryland

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

AA-38

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Historic industrial buildings on the Yard are of two types: 1) steel frame structures clad in corrugated steel sheets built in the early 1930's to house boat building and repair activities; and 2) brick-veneered steel and concrete structures able, because of their advanced concept in industrial plant layout, to house multiple functions (wood-working, welding, and equipment repair activities), as well as separate administrative and support activities areas.

Both structural types replaced wood frame structures along the waterfront, a few of which dated from the opening of the Yard in 1901 but were mostly built in successive waves of Yard construction and modernization between 1906 and 1928.

The first group of metal shop buildings described in the following survey forms are:

<u>Yard Building No.</u>	<u>Survey No.</u>
16	AA-475
5	AA-476
12	AA-477
15	AA-478
11	AA-479

These buildings continue to function in their original uses. They embody high standards for their day for clean, well-lighted interior work spaces and adequate floor space for movement of machinery, workers, and manufactured products. Floor plans also include storage space for equipment and tools not in use as well as space for employees' belongings, minimal office functions, etc. This kind of design reflected a new awareness among industrial designers of the importance to production of positive worker attitudes which, it was theorized, could be aided through provision of safe and pleasant work surroundings.

The second group of brick veneered steel and concrete structures described in the following survey forms are:

<u>Yard Building No.</u>	<u>Survey No.</u>
3	AA-480
4	AA-481
66	AA-482
58	AA-483
8	AA-484

These buildings incorporate the worker-oriented design features of the above group, but here are applied to structures of a more permanent nature, and in most cases, of larger scale. These buildings are of a type built in the United States during and following World War II to accommodate the mass production needs of heavy industry, such as the Ford Motor Company plant at Detroit, and ordnance and equipment plants on military and industrial bases throughout the country and its territories.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (Description continues)

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1914

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Building No. 15, the Power Plant, possesses significance as one of a group of five corrugated metal-clad, steel and concrete industrial buildings in the Yard constructed between 1931-1932. While Yard records indicate a very early date for this building (1914), the structure's appearance suggests a later date. It was probably substantially rebuilt during an intensive building and renovation program at the Yard prior to World War II. No. 15, originally called the Gas House, supplied steam power for boat building activities in waterfront industrial buildings. With conversion of the Yard to electric power during the pre-war renovation effort, No. 15 was restyled as a power plant, providing power for buildings in the Yard. Changes to the building over time reflect a major shift from steam to electrical industrial power prior to World War II. Metal industrial buildings in the Yard reflect the influence of international industrial building styles first produced on a large scale by American industrial designer Alfred Kahn (1869-1942), especially his 1913 designs for the Ford Motor Company Works. Building No. 15 has a wide open floor plan and high percentage of wall space dedicated to windows, features characteristic of the worker and production oriented spirit of early 20th century industrial buildings. These concepts were intensely developed and improved upon, receiving international attention with the German Bauhaus movement of the 1920's.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

AA-788

See attached continuation sheet

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached continuation sheet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Susanne Moore, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

August 1981

STREET &amp; NUMBER

21 State Circle/Shaw House

TELEPHONE

269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis, Maryland

21401

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

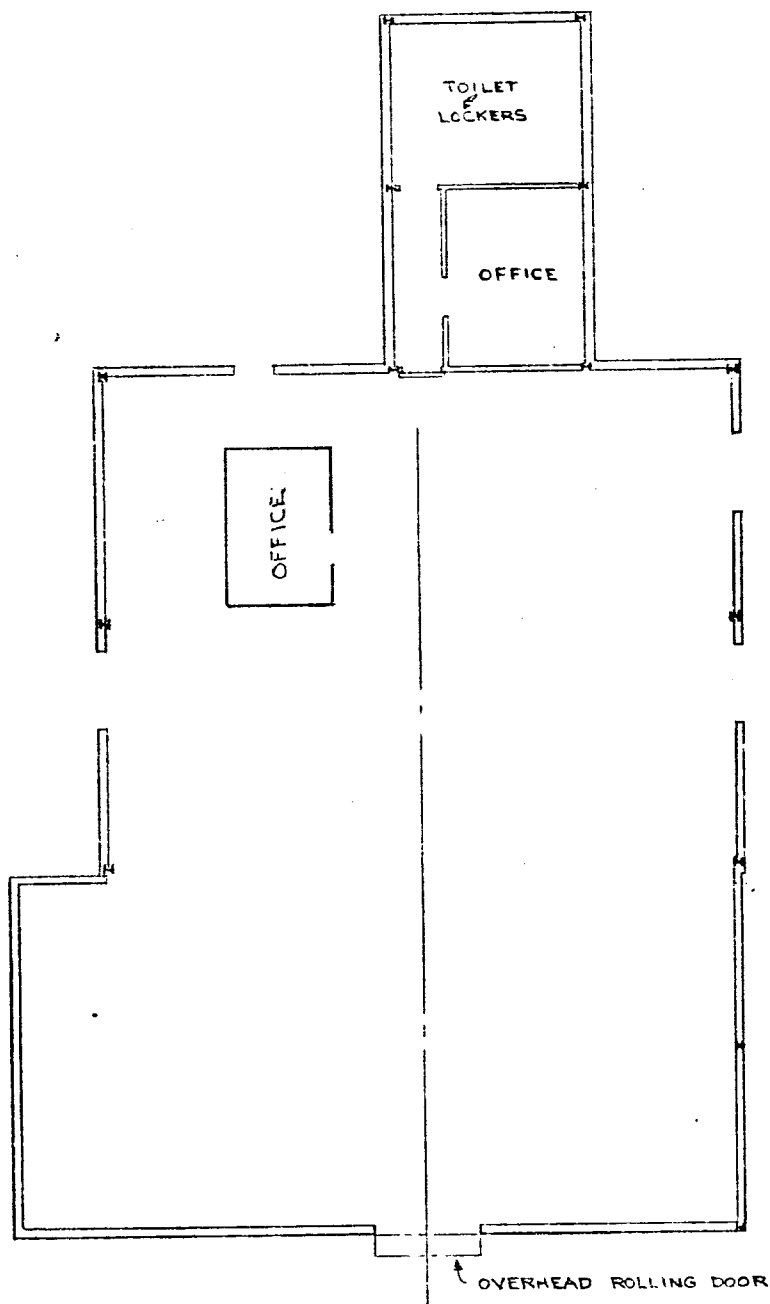
## No. 7 DESCRIPTION (continued)

Building No. 15, the Power Plant, is located immediately west of and placed parallel to No. 12. While Yard records suggest a very early date of construction for this Plant (1914), it has been substantially rebuilt over the years to meet the growing demand for heating and air conditioning of buildings on the Yard.

The main structure is nearly square in plan (approximately 50 x 70 feet) with a one story 15 x 30 extension on the north facade. It is a one story, steel frame structure, of post and beam construction, resting on brick foundations and cement slab floor. Except for an exposed cement block addition at the southwest corner, walls on all facades are clad in "Canadian" square furrow corrugated steel sheets.

No. 15 faces south and features a large roll-up corrugated metal doorway in the center of the facade. On the east end of the facade are two 15-light (3 across, 5 down) industrial windows with reinforced frosted glass.

The west facade is partly obscured at ground level by an upward grade toward a parking lot and Hamlet Avenue. At the south end, the fairly recent addition projects westward about 6 feet from the main wall plane. Moving northward from this addition are four 12-light (4 across, 3 down) industrial windows with reinforced frosted glass. In the northernmost end of the west facade are two small windows placed above the first level windows.



~ FLOOR PLAN ~

INDUSTRIAL	7094FT <sup>2</sup>
TOILET	430
OFFICE	416
CORRIDOR	130
TOTAL	8070

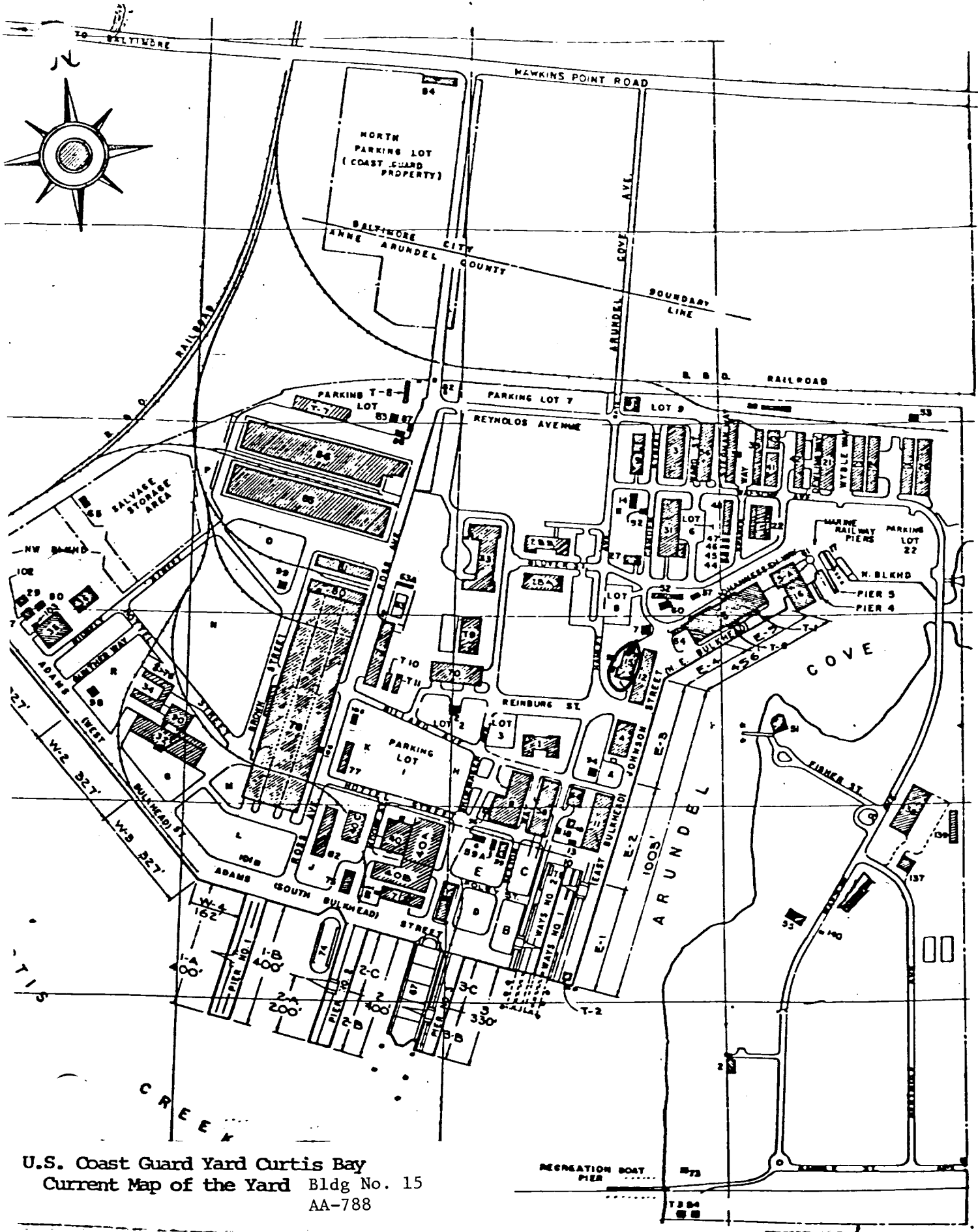
U.S.Coast Guard Yard AA-788  
 Curtis Bay - Bldg NO. 15  
 Floor Plan  
 From original on file in  
 Yard's Graphics/Repro Office

6-8-76 CD  
 POWER HOUSE  
 BLD'G. NO 15

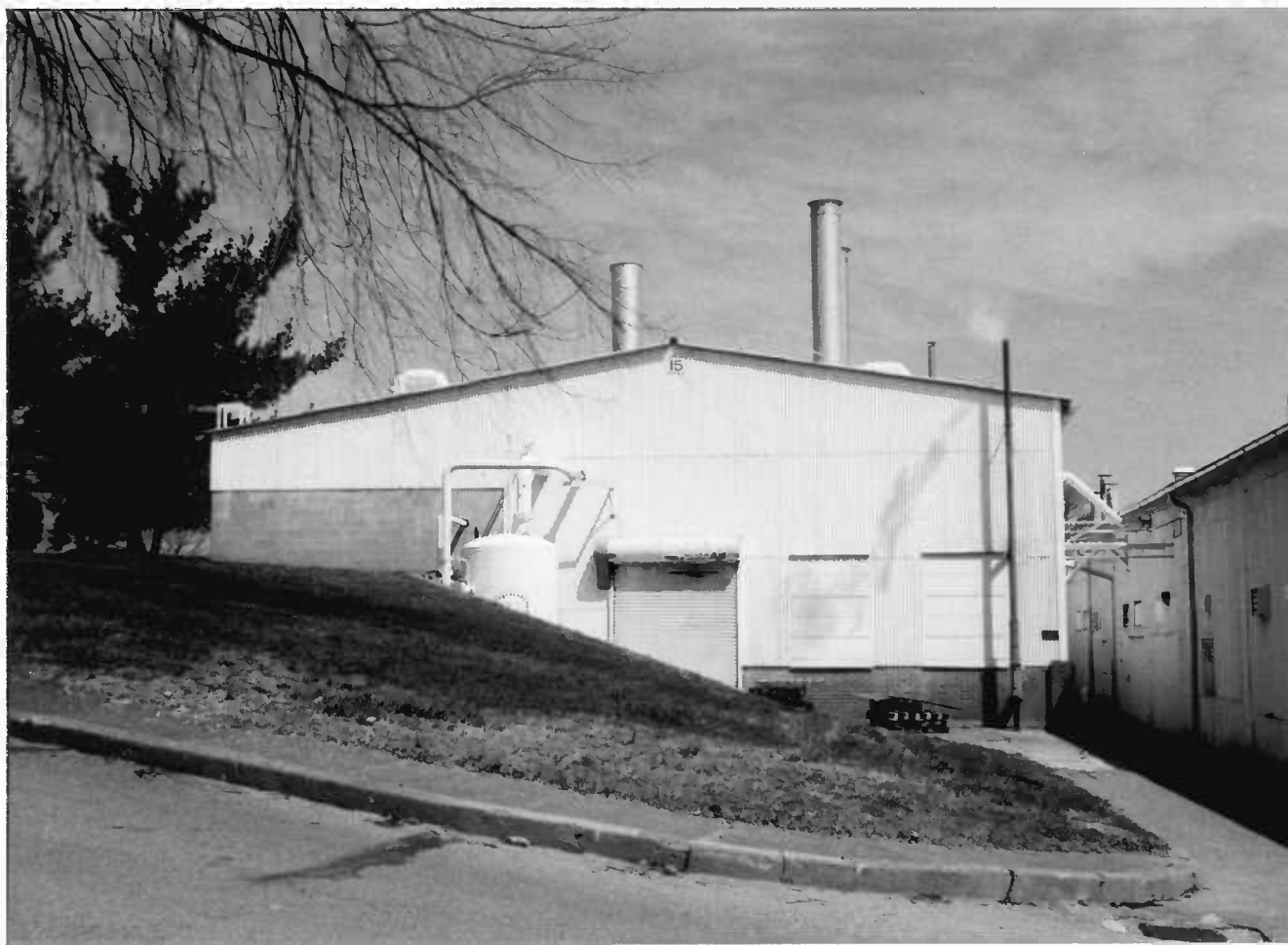
SCALE: 1" = 15'-0"

SHEET 1 OF 1

# YARD MAP



U.S. Coast Guard Yard Curtis Bay  
 Current Map of the Yard Bldg No. 15  
 AA-788



AA - 788

POWER PLANT

ANNE ARUNDEL, MD

SHERRI MARSH

APRIL 1996

MARYLAND SHPD

SOUTH ELEVATION

~~22 of 75~~

1 of 2



AA- 788

POWER PLANT

ANNE ARUNDEL MD

SHERRI MAISON

APRIL 1996

MARYLAND SHIP

NORTHEAST PERSPECTIVE

~~23 OF 75~~

2 of 2



U.S. Coast Guard Yard Curtis      AA-788  
Bay - Building No. 15  
Anne Arundel County, Md  
Susanne Moore  
July 1981  
Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD  
Northwest corner  
1/1



U.S. Coast Guard Yard AA-788

Curtis Bay - Building No. 15

Anne Arundel County, Md

Susanne Moore

July 1981

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md

Southeast corner, 2/2